CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN 2002: **McCLINTOCK AGAINST WESTLY IN CONTROLLER'S RACE. IT'S NAME ID VS. WARCHEST.**

Editor's note: The main job of the Calif. Controller is to be the State's ***fiscal watchdog***. And with Calif. still facing a continuing budget crisis, the timing may be just perfect for State Sen. Tom McClintock(R-Camarillo), an anti-tax, cut-the-budget, fiscal conservative. Only one problem: in businessman/teacher Steve Westly, McC is up against a Demo with very deep pockets in a State with a 12 point Demo registration edge. Here's our update & analysis...

...Polling data first. The only new survey is a tracking poll from Westly's camp which shows McC up by a ***41%*** vs. ***40%*** margin – meaning this ***contest is dead even***. An earlier Field poll had McC up by 12 points, while the *L.A. Times* had Westly leading by 9 points (44% vs. 35%, w/21% undecided)...

...Of the GOP statewide candidates, McC is the only one who has ever run statewide before: in 1994 he ran for controller, but lost to another *deep pocketed* Demo, current Controller Kathleen Connell. This may account for why McC's name ID is about 45% - which is pretty good for a lawmaker whose message most of the time is that the fiscal sky is falling. McC's main complaint about Westly is that he'll be Gov. Gray Davis' *lap dog* instead of a watchdog. If McC were elected, Demo & GOP sources agree he'd be in Davis' face on a daily basis. Don't know if that's what voters really want, however...

...For those unfamiliar with Westly, he's a little on the nerdy side(brainy), but made a ton of money as an exec at e-bay. And he can rightly claim that he wouldn't be a Davis lap dog because the governor backed Westly's rival, BOE member Johan Klehs, in the March Demo primary. In that primary, it was Klehs' experience vs. Westly's warchest. No contest. And right now it's that big warchest which is pushing Westly's campaign. He's been on tv for the last 10 days with two :30-sec. ads + a :15-sec. ad. One ad is a comparison spot, noting that Westly is pro-choice vs. McC who is pro-life & pro-HMO. Why pound McC on issues which aren't related to the controller's office? The issues poll well with the Demo base and sources say the base needs to be reminded of where Westly and McC stand on key issues...

...The big question is whether McC is the one GOPer who will end up winning Nov. 5th? Some sources think GOP LG candidate Bruce McPherson is the guy. Voters seem to like a balance when it comes to political power – whether it's at the national, state or local level of government. McC's only problem: he needs to find a ***funding angel*** to help him out. Without the tv, it's a tough sell for McC and perhaps another loss to a deep pocketed Demo. Right now, even with Westly's big warchest, this race is a *toss up*. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: **IS THE CALIF. GOVERNOR'S RACE GETTING TIGHT? OR IS THAT WISHFUL GOP SPIN?**

Editor's note: With a little more than a week to go before the Nov. 5th election, is the race between incumbent Demo Gov. Gray Davis and GOP businessman Bill Simon Jr. beginning to tighten up? Most Demo sources – and few GOP sources too – don't think so. Here's our analysis...

...The new ***PPIC*** (Public Policy Inst. of Calif.) survey has Davis holding a ***10 pt***. lead over Simon: 41% to 31%, with 4% for Green Party candidate Peter Camejo, 2% for Libertarian Party candidate Gary Copeland, 5% for others and 17% undecided. The PPIC poll was taken Oct. 7-15 among 1,000 likely voters. The new ***Survey USA*** poll (for KABC-TV, KXTV, KGTV & KPIX) gives Davis an ***11 pt.*** lead: 47% to 36%, with Camejo at 9%, Copeland at 4% and undecided 4% (poll taken 10/18-20, 700 likely voters)...

...But as ***Calpeek*** readers know, it's the campaign and private polls which seem to provide a clearer picture of what's going on. Generally, most of the Demo private polls and Davis' own tracking show the governor with a steady 10-12 pt. lead among likely voters. This lead has been consistent from September through this past week...

...Simon's tracking polls (Oct. 20-21) shows him within ***6 points*** of Davis – 43% Davis vs. 37% Simon. This is close to what one private Demo tracking poll showed (out of the field on Oct. 20th). The previous week, this same Demo

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pollster had Davis holding a ***10 point*** lead (44% to 34%). Why the Simon bump? According to our sources, GOP voters are *coming home*. FYI: the Simon tracking poll numbers, along with a Robert Novak column, were distributed to potential contributors on Oct. 21st. This is not an uncommon practice in campaigns, but whether contributors (other than Simon, who kicked in another $2 million of his own) will buy into this new pitch for money is unknown...

...Why isn't Davis killing Simon, given that he's outspending his GOP rival on tv ($3 million per week vs. $1 million)? Davis is holding his own in the Central Valley (PPIC poll shows Simon leading 41% vs. 33%); Davis beats Simon in L.A. (47% vs. 25%); and Davis beats Simon in the Bay area (Davis ahead 50% vs. 19%). And among Latinos in the PPIC poll, Davis leads 58% to 19%...

...The key problem for Davis is in the ***Bay area*** where two sources say ***Demo voters*** have not as yet "come home." These fickle voters won't vote for Simon or Camejo, but instead want to be wooed by Davis. Davis should be ahead of Simon in the Bay area by ***40 points*** (60% to 20%). If he were ahead by 40 points instead of 30, that would translate into 3-4 points statewide. Why the disconnect? Some think it's linked to attacks on Davis' non-stop fundraising. Others say it's residual concerns over the energy situation and his centrist positions on issues. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: **CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.**
Editor's note: Here's another update on key initiatives facing Calif. voters on Nov. 5th...

◆ ***Prop. 47*** – This is the ***$13 billion*** K-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2002. *YES on 47 – For Accountability and Better Schools* (the main YES on 47 committee) is up on tv with a rather standard :30-second pitch that says a yes vote means "more classrooms, better schools, without new taxes." YES on 47 also has mailed a brochure to likely voters. The latest survey on Prop. 47 comes from the Public Policy Inst. of Calif.(PPIC): YES **63%** vs. **28%** NO, with 9% still undecided. This is up from a September PPIC poll which showed support at 59%. The new PPIC poll was taken Oct. 7-15 among 1,000 likely voters. There is no formal opposition to 47, thus it's a safe bet to win on Nov. 5th...

◆ ***Prop. 49*** – This is actor Arnold Schwarzenegger's After School Education & Safety Initiative. Cost is $455 million per year, beginning in 2004-05. There is no formal opposition committee, but the League of Women Voters and the CA Federation of Teachers are against 49. Reason: Prop. 49 is another example of *ballot box budgeting*. Most of the newspaper editorials have gone YES on 49, except for the *L.A. Times*. The ending paragraph in their NO on 49 editorial is worth repeating: "Nice goal, lousy plan. Send it back to the script doctor." Still, most sources expect 49 to pass. The new PPIC poll shows YES at **64%** vs. NO at **27%**, with 9% undecided. Latest politician to go YES on 49: S.F. Mayor Willie Brown on Oct. 22nd...

◆ ***Prop. 50*** – This is the $3.5 billion water bond. As reported last week, YES on 50 has been up on tv for about 10 days, but the buy has been limited to the L.A. media market. YES on 50 is raising money to expand the buy. It's a great ad (produced by Winner & Mandabach) and in L.A. the numbers are moving upward. The current tracking poll (ending on Oct. 21st) by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin shows YES at 46% vs. NO 32%...

◆ ***Prop. 52*** – This is the ***Election Day Voter Registration***(EDVR) initiative being pushed by S.F. businessman Rob McKay. YES on 52 is up on tv with its first :30-sec. ad. NO on 52 has bashed the new spot saying, "Their initiative has nothing to do with allowing military personnel to vote, yet they feature an actor in a military uniform supposedly being denied his *right* to vote. It's false and misleading..." It's a pretty good spot and the use of a man in uniform (given the War on Terror) was smart. NO on 52 picked up the endorsement of the *S.F. Chron*...

...FYI: With Pres. George W. Bush giving a thumbs up to the Election Reform bill (HR 3295), YES & NO on 52 were still trying to figure out how this bill will impact on Calif. ***Calpeek*** called SOS Bill Jones' office to get their take. Response: they haven't looked at the impact on 52 because Prop. 52 hasn't passed. Doesn't sound like there would be any conflicts should 52 be approved. The only question might be on provisional ballots. If 52 were approved, voters who show up at the polls to register and vote on the same day might be required to vote with a provisional ballot. The lawyers will figure it out. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS	
Nov. 1	VICA's 14th annual Business Forecast Conf. 7:30 a.m. Warner Center Marriott Hotel.
Nov. 5	Calif. General Election.
Nov. 17-21	IAPC annual conference, Rio de Janeiro.
Dec. 3-7	Nat'l League of Cities, Salt Lake City, UT
Jan. 15-18	AAPC annual conference, Wash. DC

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CAMPAIGN 2002: **TONS OF BONDS ON THE NOV. 5TH BALLOT. IS THIS GOOD OR BAD FISCAL POLICY??**
Editor's note: Props. 46, 47 and 50 are all ***bond*** measures, placed on the ballot by the State Legislature. And around the State on Nov. 5th, voters will be voting on billions of dollars worth of bonds for K-12 schools and community colleges. Remember: passage of ***Prop. 39*** in 2000 means only a 55% vote (instead of a *2/3rds vote*) is now required to pass a school bond. Here's a brief report & analysis…

…Want to find out what Calif.'s current public debt is? Go to www.treasurer.ca.gov/cdiac/debtdata/totals.htm. That's where you'll find info from the Calif. Debt and Investment Advisory Commission(CDIAC). In case you didn't know, Calif.'s current public debt now stands at ***$39,425,394,991*** (as of 8/31/02). It's broken down this way: State bonds: $14.3 billion; local bonds: $24.9 billion; and student loans: $86.5 million…

…What's interesting about these figures are the ***local debts***. Most people never think about all the 58 counties, 460+ cities and local school/utility districts which rack up more combined debt than the State. On Nov. 5th in L.A. County alone, voters will be casting ballots on ten K-12 local school bonds totaling $3.9 billion (includes Prop. K – the $3.3 billion LAUSD bond). On top of that are three community college bonds worth a combined total of $689 million. This is just L.A. Co.!!!

…Up for sale now are $12 billion in DWR (Dept. of Water Resources) Power Supply Revenue bonds, needed to repay Calif.'s General Fund (when the State had to step in and buy power during the energy crisis)…

…The current ***debt ratio*** in Calif. is close to ***5%*** of the General Fund. The 5% figure is the percentage that credit rating agencies say States should not exceed. If Calif. goes over the 5% debt figure, it could lower the State's credit rating. Calif. general obligation(GO) bonds (long term bonds) are rated AA by Fitch; A1 by Moody's; and A+ by Standard & Poor's. AAA is the highest rating…

…Will passage of Props. 46 ($2.6 housing bond), 47 ($13 billion K-University facilities bond) and 50 ($3.5 billion water bond) push Calif. over the 5% level? It's possible. Stay tuned…

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CAMPAIGN 2002: **UPDATE ON S.F. SUPES CONTESTS.**
Editor's note: It's been several months since ***Calpeek*** last updated the five San Francisco Co. Board of Supervisors contests on Nov. 5th. Here's our brief update…

…All of the **even numbered** seats are up on Nov. 5th. Two incumbents, Sup. Gavin Newsom in the 2nd District and Sup. Sophie Maxwell in the 10th District, are considered slam dunks for reelection. A third incumbent, Sup. Chris Daly in the 6th District faces 8 rivals. Some consider Daly to be the "bad boy supervisor" – lots of negatives about this guy. Sources say Daly may not have enough support to avoid a Dec. 10th runoff. Of the 8 challengers, sources think Asst. DA Burke Strunsky might be in the best position to make a runoff…

☒ 8th District – This is the OPEN seat now held by Sup. Mark Leno, who is moving on to the CA Assembly. Leno is backing BART Board member Tom Radulovich. Supes Maxwell, Gonzalez and Peskin also support Radulovich. But several sources believe the two challengers with the best chance to make a runoff will be moderate Bevan Dufty (backed by Supes Yee & Hall) and progressive Eileen Hansen, who almost beat Leno four years ago. She's backed by Supes Ammiano, Sandoval, McGoldrick and Daly…

☒ 4th District – This is the OPEN seat of Sup. Leland Yee – also going off to Sacto in the Assembly. Yee's guy in this contest is Ed Jew. Another strong contender is Ron Dudum – an Arab-Amer. activist. Andrew Lee appears to be the big fundraiser, while many think that Fiona Ma – key aide to State Sen. John Burton, has a good shot at making a runoff. Sources say any 2 of these 4 could make it. Stay tuned…

CAMPAIGN 2002: **UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.**
Editor's note: Here's another brief update on U.S. House contests in Calif. Although there are some interesting contests, because of reapportionment, most all incumbents are in a very safe position to win reelection…

☒ ***18th CD*** – This is the OPEN seat now held by U.S. Rep. Gary Condit(D-Ceres) – beaten in the Demo primary by his one-time aide, Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza of Modesto. Condit's two grown children, Chad & Cadee, have injected themselves into the campaign once again by sending out what ***Calpeek*** calls *The Vengeance Letter from Hell* – bashing Cardoza and throwing everything at him but the kitchen sink in this Oct. 10th letter. It's a rambling letter and most sources say it'll have no impact…

…Roll Call – the newspaper which circulates on Capitol

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Hill in DC, now rates the Cardoza vs. State Sen. Dick Montieth(R) contest as ***lean Demo***. But an Oct. 1-2 poll by Mahoney, Strimple (300 likely voters) for the NRCC shows Montieth ahead: 42% to 36%, with 22% undecided. The last Cardoza survey made public was back in July, when Cardoza led Montieth by a 54% to 31% margin. Demo pollster Jim Moore has been polling regularly and Cardoza sources say they are up "by a good amount," but won't give the actual numbers. In the Davis vs. Simon contest in the 18th CD, Davis leads 45% to 35%...

...FYI: sources say Cardoza's campaign will be helped by some key independent expenditures: CA Assn. of Realtors, Planned Parenthood and organized labor...

☒ ***23rd CD*** – Sources say U.S. Rep. Lois Capps(D-Santa Barbara) will be safe for another term, but GOP challenger Beth Rogers is pumping in some big bucks. Demo sources say polling for Capps has her in the mid 50% range, with Rogers in the low 30% range. Thanks to reapportionment, this CD is more Demo than it used to be. Capps and Demo Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson are teaming up to do a combined 23rd CD/35th AD GOTV effort headed by field ops guru Susan Burnside...

☒ ***46th CD*** – Although he's probably in one of the safer CDs in Calif., U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher(R-Huntington Beach) is being put through the ringer by Demo challenger Gerrie Schipske. All one has to do is go to Schipske's website for Dana: www.Rohrabacherducks.us. She has been bashing Rohrabacher on his foreign trips and for meeting with the Taliban foreign minister back in 4/11/01. But as Calpeek has said, the 46th CD is safe GOP turf. Still, Schipske's website is entertaining. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ ***Statewide Candidates on TV*** – In addition to top of the ticket candidates Gov. Gray Davis and Bill Simon Jr., Demo Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante and his GOP rival, State Sen. Bruce McPherson, are both up and running. So is Demo controller candidate Steve Westly and Demo Insurance Comm. candidate John Garamendi. But there's ***no sign*** of Demo AG Bill Lockyer or Demo Treasurer Phil Angelides. Will these latter two pass up the tv and save their $6-7 million warchests for 2006???

■ ***Prop. D in S.F.*** – This is the measure which would create a new S.F. PUC, with the power to issue bonds without a public vote. The bonds would be used to buy PG&E's power facilities in the city. The big $$$ is with NO on D – who are on radio/tv and have mailed to voters. NO on D consultants Solem & Assoc. say their polling "looks good," but wouldn't give out any numbers. Our S.F. sources think this is going to be a very close vote. The entire S.F. Demo political power elite is split down the middle over this proposal. For example, State Senate Pres. John Burton is siding with YES on D (*San Franciscans for Affordable Clean Energy*), while Burton's good friend and ally, S.F. Mayor Willie Brown, is helping to lead the charge against D...

■ ***With Friends Like This*** – Another big GOPer bashes GOP gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon. This time it's U.S. Rep. Tom Davis of VA, chair of the NRCC – who said Simon was running the single-worst campaign in the U.S. this cycle. Oh well...

■ ***San Diego Co. DA's Update*** – There's yet another Survey USA poll (for KGTV) in the hot San Diego DA's race. It's now incumbent DA Paul Pfingst 52% vs. Judge Bonnie Dumanis at 35%, with 13% undecided. Last week a Survey USA poll had Pfingst leading 48% to 41%. This new poll was taken Oct. 12-14, among 589 likely voters...

■ ***Prop. B in L.A. Co.*** – This is the measure to hike property taxes to save the county's trauma care system. The YES side (*Measure B Saves Lives Cmt.*) has raised a warchest of about $2 million (latest report shows only $250,000 – but more $$$ has come in since the 9/30 reporting date). Consultant Rick Taylor has produced one :30-sec. tv spot and purchased $1.3 million in air time. Sources say the spot is dramatic. Prop. B requires a 2/3rds vote – so the tv spot had better be dramatic...

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